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## **Philadelphia to Host Region's Largest Green Building Conference**

*"BuildGreen 2009" brings together Delaware Valley and Pa. Leaders Committed to Innovation and Economic Growth Through Sustainable Initiatives*

**Philadelphia, August 4** – The [Delaware Valley Green Building Council](#) (DVGBC) will host "BuildGreen 2009", Oct. 14-15 at the Sheraton City Center Hotel. An evolution of the Pennsylvania Green Growth Partnership (PaGGP) Annual Forum, BuildGreen combines two of the state's premier sustainability events -- the PaGGP's annual forum connecting green stakeholders, including products researchers, manufacturers and investors, from throughout the region and the DVGBC's Green Building Celebration. The conference will culminate with the Green Building Celebration at the Penn Museum for Archaeology & Anthropology and honor winners of the prestigious DVGBC Leadership Awards.

"It seems especially appropriate to hold the first ever BuildGreen event in Philadelphia, a city of historical firsts that is also making a real and substantial commitment to forward-thinking sustainable practices in both the public and the private sectors," according to DVGBC Acting Executive Director, Heather Shayne Blakeslee.

The theme of BuildGreen 2009 is *research reinvest rebuild*. "To inspire these actions, BuildGreen will bring together diverse constituencies sharing our vision of transforming the region through sustainable and environmentally responsible planning, design, construction and operation of buildings, landscapes, cities and communities," said Blakeslee. "The BuildGreen Conference is the embodiment of the idea that economic development and sustainability are inextricably linked."

Conference organizers expect attendance of over 750 representatives from the economic development community, the building, design and construction professions, the manufacturing sector, academic institutions, the investment community, and nonprofit community. BuildGreen 2009 will showcase best practices in these areas while stimulating new thinking and ideation around sustainable products, services and processes.

The event will cover leading-edge environmentally-friendly building materials and methods, link companies and investors interested in creating sustainable products with universities throughout the state, and offer the region's first course to help green building

product reps, the real estate community, and others prepare for the new LEED Green Associate credential. In addition, regionally and nationally recognized thought leaders in the field will present stimulating, thought-provoking educational sessions.

Another highlight of BuildGreen 2009 will be the presentation of the Delaware Valley Green Building Council Leadership Awards, recognizing individuals and organizations whose sustainability achievements are a model for the region and for the nation. To learn more about the DVGBC Leadership Awards and access a PDF application please visit <http://dvgbc.org/event/dvgbc-2009-leadership-awards-program>

BuildGreen 2009 kicks off Tuesday, Oct. 13 with pre-conference workshops, (*LEED, Green Advantage and Green Building Products*) and continues Oct. 14 and Oct. 15 with two full days of interactive sessions, lectures, exhibits and outstanding business social networking opportunities at the Sheraton City Center Hotel located at 201 N. 17<sup>th</sup> St. The Green Building Celebration event will run 5:30 pm – 8:00 pm at the Penn Museum located on the University of Pennsylvania campus at 3260 South St. The concluding event, which is expected to sell out, draws a “who’s who” of the region’s leading green building and sustainability influentials.

In addition to the DVGBC and the [PaGGP](#), organizers of BuildGreen 2009 include the [Green Building Association of Central Pennsylvania](#), the [Green Building Alliance](#) and [Philadelphia University](#).

To learn more about conference programming, sponsorship opportunities or to register to attend BuildGreen 2009 go to <http://www.buildgreenconf.org/index.htm>.

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#### About DVGBC

The Delaware Valley Green Building Council (DVGBC) is a nonprofit membership organization whose mission is to transform the Delaware Valley through sustainable and environmentally responsible planning, design, construction and operation of the region’s buildings, landscapes, cities and communities, mindful of the legacy left for future generations.

Formed in 2001, the DVGBC is a chapter of the United States Green Building Council, the nation’s foremost coalition of leaders from across the building industry working to promote buildings that are environmentally responsible, profitable, and healthy places to live and work. The DVGBC is the primary point of contact for users, agencies, and companies interested in sustainable communities and is a leader in fostering cooperation and collaboration among organizations dedicated to environmentally responsible practices in the building industry. The objective of implementing green building practices is to improve site planning; to safeguard water and ensure its efficient use; to maximize energy efficiency, conserve materials and resources and ensure indoor environmental quality. The goal is to significantly reduce or eliminate the negative impact of buildings on their occupants and on our environment.

About the Pennsylvania Green Growth Partnership (PaGGP)

The Partnership, founded in 2006 by Green Building Alliance in Pittsburgh and the Engineering and Design Institute at Philadelphia University will:

- Attract new green building ventures to the state by demonstrating leadership in green building design and materials, and sustainable development technologies
- Retain Pennsylvania's existing building product manufacturers by helping them to benefit from the growing market for green products
- Facilitate technological innovation and commercialization of new products and techniques through research grants and industry-university collaborations
- Create jobs by connecting building product manufacturing companies with new markets on the national and international stage

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